

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM
WORCESTER, MASS.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
AND DRAWINGS

—BY—
BORIS GRIGORIEV

JANUARY SECOND TO JANUARY FOURTEENTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND
TWENTY-THREE

A LETTER TO DR. BRINTON

Paris, Dec. 4, 1922.

Dear Dr. Brinton:

Your voice, coming from far-off America, my mother's homeland, is dear to me. Your letter is a call to America where I have always longed to go. Europe (Paris particularly) is my spiritual home, the school of my youth, but when thinking of the United States, and realizing that I may perhaps go there, my soul seems born again. You ask me how I came to paint the series of pictures entitled *Visages Russes*. I have been watching and studying the Russian people for many years, both before and since the war and revolution and these paintings are the fruits of my observation.

If, during the revolution, I have been studying the people so intently, and if the work I have done at this period manifests its spirit so frankly and strongly, it may be due to the fact that circumstances compelled me to remain in Russia so long without leaving. My conception of the Russian people is both intuitive and artistic. Even as a child I was struck by the animal aspect of the Russian people. It is this same animal that I see in the Russian peasant of to-day, and I am glad to note that Gorky has come to a similar conclusion, for Gorky's impression proves that I had a clearer vision of reality than those who were idealizing the Russian masses, or did not know the actual Slav. "Right," "left," "white," "red," or "black," the Russians are animals, and that is why the colouring of my *Visages Russes* is the typical *mujik* colouring.

You ask about my life. During the whole of my career I have been a radical. I have remained the rebel student who could not get his diploma at the Petrograd Academy. Born in Moscow, July 11, 1886, I went to Petrograd at the age of twenty, entering the Academy in 1907, and being dismissed in 1912. The same year I was elected a member of the *Mir Iskusstva*, and also paid a visit to Paris, where I worked much and studied with nobody in particular. I owe a great deal to Cezanne, Van Gogh, Fedotov and Vrubel, to French and Spanish art of the fifteenth century, and to the streets of Paris.

When conditions no longer permitted me to continue my work in Russia, I determined to escape from the chaos of a starving country. I had to cross the Finnish gulf with my little son, then aged four, in a tiny skiff at night. The sea was rough, but the big waves protected us from the machine guns which were firing from the forts along the shore. We were not hurt, but our sail was riddled by many bullets.

I send you my very best wishes,

Faithfully and gratefully yours,

BORIS GRIGORIEV.

PAINTINGS



Russian Cycle

Visages Russes

- 1 *Madonna of the Steppe*
Lent by Mr. Adolph Lewisohn
- 2 *Russian Peasant Types*
- 3 *Toilers of the Fields*
Lent by the New Gallery
- 4 *Harvest Time*
Lent by the New Gallery

PORTRAITS

- 5 *Portrait of the Artist*
- 6 *Portrait of the Artist's Son*
- 7 *Portrait of Catharine Breshkovsky*
"Grandmother of the Russian Revolution"
- 8 *Portrait of Leon Shestov*
- 9 *Monk*
Lent by the New Gallery

FRENCH CYCLE

- 10 *Parisian Types*
Lent by the New Gallery
- 11 *Young Man*

12 *Portrait of a Young Woman*
From the Seaside Inns Series

13 *Normandy Peasant*

14 *Normandy Landscape*

15 *Brittany Landscape*

DRAWINGS

16-35 *Pencil Drawings from Russia, Germany, France,
Italy, Greece, 1916-1922.*

THE BORIS GRIGORIEV EXHIBITION

Will be shown at

THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM, WORCESTER, MASS.

From January Second to January Fourteenth, inclusive

THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

January Twenty-Third to February Twenty-Eighth

Honorary Committee

William Henry Fox
Director Brooklyn Museum

Raymond Henniker-Heaton
Director Worcester Art Museum

Dr. Christian Brinton